

# Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)



## *The Program*

The **Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)**, allows Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees to provide:

- conservation options
- recommendations
- planning or engineering assistance to individual farmers, ranchers, and local governments

Using this program, farmers and ranchers apply practices that:

- reduce soil erosion
- improve water quality
- enhance forest land, wetlands, grazing lands, and wildlife habitat

NRCS services are based on the practical delivery of science-based technology through more than 150 technical standards. Standards are developed nationally but are customized to meet the needs of Colorado producers. State

and local governments that manage local resource programs also use these standards.

## *Colorado's FY-2002 CTA*

- Allocation totaled **\$17,468,518**
- Funded **68** percent of NRCS technical assistance
- Permitted NRCS field staff to provide service to more than **164,000** Coloradans
- Benefited more than **1.4** million acres of Colorado's agricultural land by planning and applying conservation management systems

In addition, NRCS staff assisted local groups to develop **60** resource plans totaling some 23 million acres using the locally led process. These plans identified resource conservation needs at the community or watershed level, and local groups identified strategies to address these conservation needs. The plans were also used at the local level to request funding from private sources as well as from local, state, and Federal governments.

### *Assistance to American Indian Tribes*

Colorado has two full-time NRCS employees located at the tribal headquarters offices of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes. These employees work with the tribal agricultural and natural resources staff and American Indian agricultural producers delivering conservation technical assistance and USDA financial assistance programs. They ensure operators on Indian lands receive equitable access and opportunities to participate in USDA programs and benefits.

### *NRCS Assistance to the Southern Ute Tribe includes:*

- ◆ 40 active EQIP contracts on **41,000** acres of tribal lands totaling **\$350,000** of cost-share assistance
- ◆ Assisting the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Water Quality Division with the development of guidelines for a 319 cost-share program for water quality improvements
- ◆ Providing a grazing management plan and vegetation inventory to the Water Quality Division for the Dry Creek Riparian Area Management Project
- ◆ Assisting over **162** individual tribal producers with general technical assistance on irrigation water management, rangeland management, and wildlife habitat development

### *NRCS Assistance to the Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) Tribe includes...*

- ◆ Assisting in the installation of more than **46** miles of livestock pipelines, **32** stock tanks, and **5** storage tanks which hold **420,000** gallons of water each
- ◆ Conservation planning has been completed on 281,302 acres including 273,559 of rangeland and 7,749 acres of cropland
- ◆ In cooperation with Colorado State University's Cooperative Extension Service, UMU Tribe, and Farm and Ranch enterprise, conservation workshops for tribal member have been held annually
- ◆ NRCS has worked with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Ute Mountain Agency on tribal forestry and woodland management plans, and also with the tribal Environmental Department on the reservation-wide water quality management plan
- ◆ Soil Survey mapping with range correlation has been completed on some 90% of the reservation, totaling approximately 540,000 acres

- ◆ NRCS assisted the BIA with range forage inventories for a 2002 drought mitigation plan which was submitted to the tribe and tribal ranchers

### *Conservation Partnerships*

NRCS uses its strong partnerships with various agricultural and environmental agencies and organizations to achieve sound conservation goals.

### **Colorado Association of Soil Conservation Districts (CASCD)**

The mission of Colorado's Soil Conservation Districts (SCD) is to provide leadership for the conservation of natural resources to ensure the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the state through "*a responsible conservation ethic.*" Colorado now has 77 conservation districts.

### **Colorado State Soil Conservation Board (CSSCB)**

CSSCB is responsible for coordinating the activities of Colorado's 77 SCDs. As such, the Board provides technical assistance to districts, as well as financial assistance for priority conservation needs identified by the districts. The Board is an agency of the **Colorado Department of Agriculture**.

### **Colorado Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University (CSU)**

CSU Cooperative Extension ("*county agents*") provides information and education to support Colorado's conservation efforts. It also counsels, educates, and trains SCDs in economics, engineering, agronomy, soil, animal science, food science, forestry, and many other areas.

Other key conservation partners include:

- Army Corps of Engineers (COE)
- Colorado Cattlemen's Association
- Colorado CattleWomen Inc.
- Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPH&E)
- Colorado Farm Bureau
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Farmers Union
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- USDA Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

